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Myſterious Congreſs.

A

LETTER from *Aix la Chappel*,

DETECTING

The Late Secret Negociations there; Accounting for the Extraordinary Slowneſs of the Operations of the Campaign ſince the Action at DETTINGEN; and, *particularly*, for the Reſignation of the E—l of *S——R.*

WITH

Many other curious *Particulars* relating to the preſent Broils of EUROPE.

By a NOBLEMAN, diſtinguiſhed for *Integrity* and *Conſummate Knowledge* in *Public Affairs.*

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THE
Myſterious Congreſs.

SIR,

Aix la Chappel, $\frac{25}{14}$ *September,* 1743.

OUR Water Drinkers here this Seaſon ſeem to verrify the political Fiction concerning the Waters of *Lethe*; for all is Life and Spirit, Gaity and Mirth, Profuſion and Expence, juſt as if the preſent melancholy Scene in *Europe* had been the Reverſe of what it is. There ſeems to be no Memory, no ideal Traces of the late and preſent Diſtractions and Devaſtations in theſe *once* happy Regions of *Germany*; and even the native *Germans* themſelves ſeem as inſenſible of the Miſeries of their Country as we Foreigners, and appear not a whit more anxious about the dreadful Conſequences of the *preſent* dangerous Schemes of the contending Courts.

I was many Days in Suſpence concerning this general Spirit of Gaity and Inſenſibility; I could not ſuppoſe it to be altogether ſpontaneous, tho' it wore the Appearance of Nature, becauſe it apppeared to me unnatural,

that a numerous Company of People, compoſed of Individuals of all the different Nations of *Europe*, ſhould be actuated at one time with the ſame identical particular Paſſion: Such, in Reality, it appears throughout the whole People here at preſent. The richer Tradeſman, the Artificer and Peaſant ſeem as unattentive to *Cares* and *Sorrow* as the *Baron*, the *Count* or *Prince*. This happy Propenſity to Pleaſures and Forgetfulneſs is not more conſpicuous among the Youth than the Aged, nor among the Men of Dreſs and Gallantry, than the Men of Buſineſs, Politics and Intrigue. In ſhort, 'tis one univerſal Calm all over the Place, one general Suſpenſion from all manner of Functions that employ the Head, or affect the Heart.

This general, but unuſual Serenity, made me ſuſpect it rather artificial than natural, notwithſtanding the uncommon Warmth and Clearneſs of the Air, which undoubtedly continue to inſpire Mirth and Chearfulneſs. I know you will look upon this Suſpicion of mine to be owing to an Oddity in my Temper, or to that Propenſity to Speculation, which you often told me would create me much Occupation and Trouble in the Courſe of my Life. All I ſhall ſay in my own Defence, is, that my Oddity or Propenſity to ſpeculating has often been of Uſe to me in tracing out *Truth*, when it appeared ſo inveloped as to ſeem out of the Reach of human Underſtanding; and that any Trouble attending

ing ſuch Reſearches as mine, even while they ſubſiſt, is more than compenſated by the Leachery of *Expectation*, which you, my Friend, as much as any Man in *Europe*, know by Experience, to be beyond that of *Fruition* itſelf.

To indulge, then, an odd Turn of Thought, which is always attended with Delight to myſelf, I reſolved to pry narrowly into the Life and Converſation of the foreign Miniſters, of whom we have here as many as would form a Congreſs for a general Peace. I did not think it impoſſible to find amongſt ſome of theſe refine Stateſmen the Source whence all the ſeeming careleſs Allacrity of this Place imperceptibly iſſued. You may be ſure my Attention was firſt and principally fixt on the Miniſter of *France*, who affects to be valetudinary more than many others leſs florid in the Face, and more advanced in Years. I was encouraged in the Experiment the more, that I could not be perſuaded that ſo many Miniſters had flocked hither, fortuitouſly, at one and the ſame time: You are acquainted with the Names of thoſe who are come hither from the *Hague*; but the ſecret *Plenipo's* far exceed theſe in Number. I don't know a principal Power in *Europe* that has not a Miniſter here, tho' their Characters be known to very few. They are all Invalids, viſit to make the Waters paſs, and converſe to paſs away the time. Thus, perhaps, is the moſt important Negociation that ever *Europe* carried

ried on imperceptibly in the Face of the World, under the Pretext of Recreation and Amuſement.

My chiefeſt Care, as I hinted, was employed to be minutely informed of the Actions of the Marquis *de F———n.* I had him watched Night and Day, and mixed in all public Company he frequented. I was the moſt aſſiduous of his Viſitors, the moſt voluble of his *Gazetteers*, and the loudeſt in Praiſe of his own particular Maxims, and thoſe of his Court. You won't wonder, if, by theſe Means, and my being ſubject to a Prince diſintereſted in the preſent Broils of *Europe*, but by Inclination, ſuſpected to wiſh well to *France*, I came to be looked upon, if not as a Confident, at leaſt as one not to be ſuſpected for Partiality, or of an Intention to acquire Information, in order to communicate it abroad. In this Light was I viewed by that Nobleman; in this Light am I ſtill viewed by him and all his Acquaintance: I am looked upon as a neutral Perſon, and am often choſen a Mediator to adjuſt Matters between jarring Politicians. The Partizans of *Bourbon* and *Auſtria* have frequent Recourſe to my Impartiality. You ſee, my Friend, your old Chum is become the Man of Conſequence, when and where you would leaſt expect it: But the only Pleaſure I receive from my being this *Homme de Conſequence*, is, that I am thereby the better enabled to amuſe you, at leaſt, if not ſatisfy your Curioſity.

One

One need not be on ſo good Terms as I am with the principal Miniſters here, and particularly with the *Imperial*, the *French* and the *Spaniſh*, not to perceive that Water-drinking was not the principal Inducement of aſſembling ſo many Stateſmen together: Nor could I, without betraying too great Supineneſs, overlook the Politics of the Marquis *de F——n* particularly, to whoſe Addreſs may be aſcribed that general Serenity or Unthoughtfulneſs, ſo obvious in every Face but his own, where *Thought* and *Care*, tho' imperceptible to the Multitude, ſeem to me to have erected their Thrones. You may perceive himſelf ſenſible, that the Diſquietudes of the Heart do work up into the Countenance, for he is inceſſantly making Faces and complaining of Pains he does not feel, to colour the Unevenneſs which but too apparently denote Solitude of Mind: But all his Demeanor, all his Looks and Motions are ſo apt and well-ſeaſoned, that few read his inward Perturbations.

Thus, Sir, has this Miniſter, by the ſole Force of his Addreſs, been able, not only to hide his own Uneaſineſs and Anxiety, but even when he laboured moſt under them, to inſpire all who converſe with him or ſee him, with Content and Serenity of Mind. All the Miniſters of his Party are in the Secret, or act as if they were; for they are, like him, eternally promoting ſome trifling Amuſement or other, and inculcating the Happineſs

Happineſs and Neceſſity of unbending the Mind ſometimes and forgetting Cares. To be at one of our Evening Circles, ſometimes, you would imagine yourſelf at old *Athens* among a Set of *Epicureans*. To paſs calmly thro' Life, to gratify the Senſes reaſonably; in ſhort, to go down, ſmoothly and unruffled, the Stream of this World, is the Doctrine propagated at every Table, and ſeems to be that which is imbibed and followed by all Orders here. The Affectation of being in the Mode is ſo prevalent, that you won't wonder if the happy Infection be now become univerſal, tho', as I have ſaid above, I look upon it to be ſolely owing to the Addreſs of Monſieur *F——n*.

You will naturally ask, to what End or Uſe could this Scheme of general Serenity be to that Stateſman, ſuppoſing he came with a View to negotiate ſome important Treaty? I anſwer, to cover his Intentions, and prevent the Interruptions neceſſarily attending public Negociation. But here has been, beſides, more Neceſſity for Diſguiſe than ever was known on other Occaſions: For though there ſeems to be a general Negociation for conſolidating all the preſent Diſputes of *Europe* generally; yet am I confident there are two other more ſecret Negociations going on, where the profoundeſt Secrecy is neceſſarily obſerved, becauſe they directly thwart each other: And out of theſe again ſpring leſſer negociating Shoots, regarding the particular Intereſt

tereſt of Individuals, which require no leſs the Maſk of Secrecy. Where there are above thirty Miniſters, and all are Acting and Counter-acting; where all are in Motion, yet where all would be thought to be in none; where all are diffident of each other, and would ſeem to confide with the greateſt Impliſitneſs in each other; where, in ſhort, there is ſo much a doing, and ſo little Appearance of Buſineſs, you will ſuppoſe that the refineſt Strokes of the Miniſterial Art are practiced.

The Situation of Affairs in *Europe*, particularly in the Empire, required a Negociation; but how to begin one was the Difficulty. The *Dutch* declined the Mediation offered by the Emperor and *France*; the *Venetians* excuſe themſelves; and the Pope would not be reliſhed by *England* particularly, and ſome other Proteſtant Powers in *Germany*. The Northern Powers were too intent upon their own Affairs to be troubled or intruſted with thoſe of others. Thus were Matters circumſtanced till after the late Action at *Dettingen*, which made it more neceſſary for *France* particularly, to haſten the ſetting a general Negociation on foot.

To conſider the Opportunity thrown in the Way of *France*, from the Blunders of the Confederate Army, to put an End to the War, glorious to her own Cauſe, one can't but admire the ſecret Workings of Providence, who delights to damp the Preſump-

tion of Man, by rendering the moſt feazible of his Schemes abortive. Never were Generals more infatuated, than thoſe who gave ſo great Advantages to a ſuperior Enemy; but never was ſo great Advantage ſo ill improved. What an *Italian* Nobleman here ſaid on that Occaſion, though in very few Words, ſeems to expreſs very aptly the Characters of the Generals of both Armies: *The Fools eſcaped, becauſe they had to deal with Madmen.* One Obſervation naturally ariſes from the Poignancy of theſe lively-drawn Characters, if true, *viz.* That *Fools* ſeldom improve, but the *Mad* have their Intervals: And a Review of the different Motions of theſe Armies, ſince the Affair of *Dettingen*, will rather confirm than efface the Truth of this Obſervation.

The *French*, as if recovered from the Frenzy, which obſtructed their blaſting at one Blow all the Hopes of the Courts of *Vienna* and *London*, prudently retired, not only to cover their own Country, threatened with a mighty Invaſion, but to take all Excuſe from *England* particularly, for attacking her in conſequence of her Guaranty of the *Pragmatic Sanction*. On this Side there are viſible Marks of Senſe and military Conduct; but is it ſo on the other? I am afraid not; at leaſt it does not appear to indifferent Spectators, that the Allied Commanders have improved the Advantages they had after the Retreat of the *French* over the *Rhine*.

It

It is ſuppoſed the Operations of the Campaign were ſettled at *Hanau* when Prince *Charles* was there. The Plan, they ſay, was that young Prince's; which I very much doubt, becauſe I can't ſuppoſe he would be Author of a Plan, whatever he might do *to agree to it in Deference to a uſeful Ally*, that ſhould lay himſelf under inſeparable Difficulties. It might be Policy in one who intended to temporize, whoſe Views tended rather to carrying Points at *home*, than making Conqueſts on *France*, and who perhaps had ſeen ſo much of Danger at *Dettingen*, that he had no Stomach to more: I ſay, in ſuch a one it might be Policy to divide the Forces, in order to leſſen the Weight of the Attack, and to ſend the Prince where he muſt expect to meet with the greateſt Reſiſtance, or paſs the faireſt Seaſon in Inaction. Thus, and in no other Light, can the Conduct of the Commanders of the Allied Armies be accounted for.

For to ſuppoſe that *England* was in Earneſt, and that Prince *Charles* had the Direction of forming the Plan of Operation; to ſuppoſe that young Hero a free Agent, and to act as he has done, would be to ſuppoſe, that he is a mere Novice in his Profeſſion, or that, being enamoured with the Sweets of Hazard and Difficulty, he ſcorned to conquer by the obvious and eaſy Methods of War.——When that Prince was at *Hanau*, he might with more Eaſe march down than

up the *Rhine*. By marching down, he commanded the Paſſage of the River, and was at Hand to ſecond, or be ſeconded, in forcing the Way into the Territories of *France*. But what Advantages could be propoſed by his marching into a ſterile Country up the River, ſuppoſing he had been ſure of paſſing it, that he might not hope for, had he deſcended and joined or approached the combined Army? There were none, there could be none in View. The Attack upon *Alſace* by both Armies united, would be more violent and ſecure, than it poſſibly would or can by their being ſeparated, and at ſo great a Diſtance from each other. The Speculatiſts in military Affairs ſpoke loudly of Miſconduct, when the Intention of ſuch a Seperation of the Armies was firſt made public: And did not they condemn upon good Grounds? Does not the Event prove the Rectitude of the Condemnation? Has not that impolitic Meaſure afforded the *French* breathing Time? Have not they had, by that ſingle Step, Leiſure to encreaſe their Armies in *Alſace*, fortify their Lines, fortify and ſupply their Towns; and, what is yet of more Conſequence, to recover from their Panic? Seaſons are to be obſerved in all Affairs of Life, but eſpecially in War, where a Day, ſomtimes an Hour unimproved, always retards, and often obſtructs the Execution of the beſt laid Schemes.

But

But to conſider that Separation of theſe Armies in another obvious Light, how fatal may it prove? To that commanded in Perſon by a Warlike K——g, may it not be dreaded that it will risk too much in retreating, ſhould it be thought impracticable to attack the *French* in their Lines? or ſhould this Army attack and fail, where is the Reſource, when Prince *Charles* is at ſo great a Diſtance? Luck and Chance, that had preſerved that Army at *Dettingen*, may ſtill accompany it; but without ſome ſuch ſupernatural Aid, or unleſs the *French* are ſtill *mad* enough to ſlip Opportunity, as they did on the Banks of the *Mayn*, there is an Appearance that there may be Cauſe for regretting the Seperation, and for ſaying, that even the Wiſe are not always prudent. The Caſe may be ſtill worſe with the Army near *Friburgh* and *Briſac*, ſhould it not be able to paſs the River, or ſhould the combined Army at *Spire* meet with any Check. The Country about *Friburgh*, at beſt is barren; but after ſo long a Stay, of ſo great an Army, we muſt ſuppoſe it quite exhauſted. What then muſt become of the Army there, ſuppoſing it cannot paſs the River, before the Army below ſeparates to go into Winter Quarters? The Prince can't poſſibly winter his Army in the *Briſcau*; he dare not attempt wintering in *Alſace* if he could, when perhaps the combined Army is at ſo great a Diſtance as the *Netherlands*; and to march back to the *Auſtrian* hereditary

tary Countries, which he muſt neceſſarily do, in an advanced Seaſon, will exceedingly harraſs the Whole, perhaps deſtroy a good Part of his Army.

But may not that young Prince run yet a greater Hazard? May not the *French* be not only ſtrong enough to prevent his viſiting them, but to pay him an unwelcome Viſit, when he is moſt harraſſed, moſt in Want, and leaſt able to receive unwelcome Gueſts, as he would wiſh? Such a deciſive Stroke is to be dreaded, if the combined Army make not more vigorous Efforts than they ſeem inclined to hitherto; and infallibly muſt happen, ſhould *Noailles* join *Cogni*, leaving the combined Army intangled with Fortreſſes, or inclined to put an unmeaning, inglorious End to a Campaign, begun with no View to the Aggrandizement of the Houſe of *Auſtria*, tho' otherwiſe given out for carrying Points at home.

Theſe, inauſpicious as they may ſeem, are but Conſequences that might have been apprehended and foreſeen very naturally from a *Separation*, which all the World condemned, as being repugnant to all the Maxims of War, and, indeed, to all Maxims of ſound Policy. The Inaction of the Royal Army (an Epithet of Diſtinction) which has been hitherto accounted for, as owing to the Slowneſs of the *Dutch* Troops, will be now without Excuſe, thoſe Troops being joined, at leaſt come ſo near as to be depended upon, in caſe

caſe they have no ſecret Orders to be on the *Defenſive* only. I ſhall have Occaſion hereafter, perhaps, to obſerve upon the Policy of the wary *Dutch*; but before I quit this Subject of the *Separation*, let me do Juſtice to the Nobleman who lately commanded the *B——ſh* Troops in the Field: I ſhould have ſaid *nominally*; for ſuch it ſeems his Command was for ſome Weeks before he reſigned.

The Velt Marſhal, Count of *S——r*, was thought by ſome to have projected and adviſed that memorable March to *Aſchaffenbourg*, which had like to have proved fatal to his Prince and the whole combined Army. But when that important Tranſaction came to be diſcuſſed and minutely ſcrutinized, it appeared ſo far from being a Meaſure of that Nobleman's, that it had been taken entirely againſt his Opinion. That March was a Meaſure ſolely *H——n*; as, indeed, moſt Meaſures have been, ſince that Army took the Field. What is certain is, that Lord *S——r* merited greater Confidence than was repoſed in him, on many Accounts, but particularly for contributing more than any other whatever, to the Eſcape at *Dettingen*; and for having adviſed following the Blow, and attacking the *French* the Day after the Action, when the *Heſſians* and *Hanoverians* at *Hanau* might, if ordered, have joined time enough. It is indiſputable that the Advice was eligible and conſummate, conſider-

ing

ing how high in Spirits the combined Army was, and how Creſs-fallen and diſconcerted that of Monſieur *Noailles:* Nor is it unlikely that the ſame Politics, or *Panic,* which I obſerved might have influenced the Reſolution of ſeparating the Armies, had prevailed on this Occaſion: For when the Heart is once ſtrongly ſeized with any Paſſion, there is ſcarce any Proſpect of Advantage can remove the contracted Prejudice. Even the ſtrongeſt Efforts of Reaſon are too feeble to efface it.

Thoſe who had endeavoured to have faſtened the March to *Aſcheffenbourg* on Lord *S——r,* would likewiſe fix upon him as Author of the *Separation* of the Armies, after the Public cried out againſt that Meaſure. This laſt maliciousFiction was not ſwallowed, at leaſt here, as glibly as the firſt. We were now convinced that he was againſt the March to *Aſcheffenbourgh,* was for puſhing the Advantage at *Dettingen,* and that he adviſed attacking Marſhal *Noailles* the Day after, ſince he was not permitted to purſue the flying *French*; therefore it would be difficult to perſuade us, that he, who had diſſuaded againſt the March, and adviſed the Attack, could be capable of adviſing the *Separation,* a Meaſure ſo obviouſly deſtructive of the Scheme concerted between the Courts of *London* and *Vienna,* and ſo ſelf-evidently againſt all the Rules of War or Reaſon.

No,

No, Sir, that Lord was not ſo much as conſulted on that important Occaſion; nor, indeed, was he called upon for Advice in any Affair of Moment ever ſince the Arrival of the —— in the Field. Whether any ill Offices had been done that Nobleman before; or, whether after the Arrival, the *Hanoverians* had found Means to ingroſs the R——l Heart and Ear; or, whether rather, the noble Lord had reaſoned and adviſed with too great Sincerity and Freedom, without paying that Deference to the foreign Generals, which perhaps was expected by themſelves and *others*; whichever of theſe was the Reaſon, I can't ſay, but it is currently believed here, and was, long before his Diſmiſſion, that he ſtood but indifferently, when there was moſt Reaſon for him to hope, he ſhould be beſt received. The Word *Diſmiſſion* here might more properly be ſupplied by that of *Reſignation*, which was undoubtedly the Caſe, if our Intelligence at *Aix* be well founded. My Lord requeſted to be diſmiſſed, and his Requeſts was as readily granted as it was earneſtly made; it being not at all improbable, that the K—— and the L—d were heartily glad to be aſunder. Few Princes love the Liberty of ſome Servants; and there are no honeſt Servants who can, or ought to help or correct Nature, when, perhaps, their own Honour, the Safety of the Prince himſelf, and the Good of their Country, depend,

in ſome Meaſure, on their virtuous Plainneſs and Tenaciouſneſs.

A Chief General of an Army being accountable, at leaſt to his Honour and Character, for the Operations of the Campaign, has a Right to the principal Direction of all military Affairs, while the Troops are in the Field; and it may be ſaid too, with equal Propriety, that he has a Right to the Confidence of his Prince. If he was thought worthy of the Chief Command, ſurely he muſt be deemed worthy alſo of Truſt and Confidence: There ſeems to be a reciprocal Obligation between the Prince and General: The Zeal and Affection of the one exact the Favour, and Confidence of the other; therefore, whenever the latter fails, the firſt neceſſarily ceaſes. I may do a Man no ill Office, becauſe he does not confide in me; but I doubt whether my Chriſtianity would carry me ſo far as to be warm and zealous in his Intereſt, when I was convinced, from undeniable Evidence, that I was not only indifferent, but even obnoxious in his Eyes.

Our Speculatiſts here, tho' 'tis thought we have ſome of the moſt refined in *Europe*, ſeem not a little puzzled to account for the Conduct that is ſuppoſed to have produced the Reſignation of that noble *Veteran* in the Midſt of a Campaign; and, in Appearance, at the Eve of a general Action. They think the Provocation muſt be very groſs that could drive a gallant old Officer to act a Part that would

would be as unſeaſonable as without Excuſe, without ſome offered, unbearable Slights and Indignities. On the other Hand, they are at a Loſs for the Motive that ſhould induce the offering ſuch Slights as could not be brooked by one of even more Phlegm and leſs Reſentment than my Lord *S——r*.

We are not unacquainted with the too obvious Partiality in Favour of *Countrymen*; nor that Councils have been called of *theſe only*, tho' againſt all military Rules, even if they had been Principals, as they are but *Mercenaries* only. We are not uninformed neither, that moſt *Meaſures* have been ſettled in a private Cabal of *foreign Officers*, previous to laying them before a regular Council for Form ſake only; and that ſome Meaſures of Conſequence were entered upon, and even executed, without the Sanction of any Council, at which the *General*, or any of his Fellow-Subjects were preſent. We have heard too much to doubt of *Partiality* ſhewn in the Choice of *Quarters*, the Dates of *Commiſſions*, and many other Inſtances: We have heard alſo of Whiſpers, that the *Britiſh* Troops were *expoſed*, and *ſome others* induſtriouſly *ſpared* at *Dettingen*: We have been told too, that the *Livery* of *H——r* was prefered, on that important Day, to that of *England*; at which one might wonder, if *Prudence* had ever been known to conquer a rooted *Prejudice*.

The Report of all theſe *partial Tranſactions* have reached us here; but ſtill are we at a Loſs, not for the natural partial *Biaſs*, nor the general Diſcontent it might have occaſioned amongſt thoſe who imagined they had a Right to Favour and Preference, if any were ſhewn; but for ſome Cauſe more myſterious relative to the *General* particularly. The rumoured *Partiality* affected him only in common with the Reſt of his Countrymen; and any direct *Slights* that were offered to himſelf, may be ſuppoſed to have been ſo frequent that they became habitual; for otherwiſe we can't well account for his not reſigning ſooner, ſince it is confirmed by all Hands, that he was no favoured, cheriſhed Perſon from the Beginning.

'Tis hard to gueſs, you will ſay, why a Man would be entruſted with a Chief Command that was not liked; yet we read and have known many Inſtances of the Kind. He was of the prevailing Party, and a fit Perſon, in a double Capacity, to perſuade the *Dutch*, that the Court of *L———n* had changed her Syſtem, and was in earneſt: But tho' he acted his Part, as became a prudent and zealous Servant, 'tis a Doubt whether he would not have been more cheriſhed if he had been more obſervant of the real Sentiments of his Court. It might be intended, perhaps thought neceſſary, to create a vaſt Expence, to make a grand Figure abroad, and to put on every Appearance of Earneſtneſs;

neſs; but ſtill there might be Reaſon for not reliſhing a Man that ſhould be too earneſtly for improving Opportunities, and procuring ſome Advantage for his Country, to compenſate for the exceſſive Drains of a Campaign, enormouſly expenſive.

A Suppoſition, then, prevails here, that Lord *S——r*, like the reſt of the intruding Party, was made an Agent of Neceſſity only; and that the ſame ill Uſage and Power, which forced him out of the Circle, will ſoon drive out the reſt, if they have not loſt all Senſe of Feeling. Obtruded Servants are ſeldom continued longer than they are abſolutely neceſſary.

'Tis thought, that the *unguarded Expreſſions*, which accompanied the peremptory Refuſal of the *Memorial* I ſend you incloſed, determined that Lord to an immediate Reſignation, which he had meditated for ſome Weeks before. The Memorial, you ſee, relates to a particular Tranſaction in the Camp, in which the *B——ſh* Officers thought they had been miſrepreſented by ſome ſycophant Foreigners. A Juſtification, it ſeems, was thought neceſſary; but whether in Fact it was neceſſary or not, a Memorial relating to ſo great a Corps of Officers, merited ſome Conſideration; or, if judged proper to be refuted, the Refuſal needed not be accompanied with the moſt aggravating Circumſtances and Expreſſions. It was too ſenſible to a Man of my L—d *S——r*'s Spirit, to be told, *That there*

there was not a Word of T——h in the Memorial he ſo warmly eſpouſed.

Lady *Fame*, you know, is a Babler by Profeſſion; ſhe has too many Tongues to be moved by *Truth* alone; but if ſhe may be credited, all theſe Particulars concerning that gallant Nobleman, are not only true, but another not leſs natural than any of the reſt. The many-mouthed Dame, then, reports, that a *perſonal Caution* at *D———n*, natural to moſt Men, and, perhaps, thought more neneſſary in K—s than others, was ſpoke of by that L—d, with too little Reſerve, a Day or two after that Action. Theſe Sort of Indiſcretions are ſeldom forgiven; the *Point* of Honour is too ſharp to be reſiſted by the Armour of either Intereſt or Reaſon.—But not to detain you any longer on a *Reſignation* which has been lately the Subject of all Converſations here, 'tis thought, that that diſtinguiſhed Nobleman's former and late Services, as a Miniſter and a Soldier, merited greater Confidence, more Favour, and better Uſage than he has met with ſince he firſt took upon him the Command of the Army he has now quitted.

To conſider the more than ordinary *Services* performed by that Nobleman in his Embaſſy to *F——e*, it may be wondered that he was ſlighted, in the late Reign particularly, or even in the preſent. If it be true that he had then done ſignal Services to the Family, he merited the Gratitude of all; and

and yet we have ſeen him dropp'd by all, and now ſignally ſlighted. What can we impute theſe *Phenomina* in Politics to? Might not he have over-rated his Services; or were they not of ſo delicate a Nature, that, tho' they could not well bear the Light, he had bragg'd of them as meritorious Actions? There are ſome *Actions* that ought not to be *commanded*, much leſs performed, or even *attempted* to be performed.——But we will leave the General to cover his Diſguſts with amuſing Ceremonials at the *Hague*, to trace the myſterious Steps of our great Men here, who cover important Negociations, by an intire Suſpenſion of all miniſterial Ceremonies.

I have mentioned *France*, as ſtanding moſt in need of ſome Negociation or Expedient for putting an End to the Broils of *Europe*, that ſhe might ward off the threatened Invaſion of her Territories, after the groſs Errors of his Generals at *Dettingen*. But tho' that Crown ſeemed to want Peace moſt about that Time, there are Reaſons for believing that the Bleſſing was as earneſtly ſought by *one* of the invading Powers. The Queen of *Hungary* had been prevented coming to an eligible Accommodation with the Emperor, when *Prague* had been inveſted laſt Year; that believing Princeſs had been buoy'd up with Hopes of great future Conqueſts; but however all this might have anſwered *domeſtic* Purpoſes, 'tis thought the Court of L——*n* was never in earneſt. That Cabinet might

be

be glad of any Pretext for keeping Armed, perhaps, and of *impoveriſhing* a ſtubborn People, but our Speculatiſts here won't be perſuaded that a War with *France* was ever intended: And, indeed, the Conduct in the Field, adds but too ſtrongly to the Plauſibility of the Suppoſition.

As *England* then had no Averſion to a Peace *in futuro*, which could not affect the domeſtic Schemes of her Court, *France* found not much Difficulty in diſpoſing her to a Negociation, provided Duſt could be thrown into the Eyes of the Public. The *French*, who abound in Men of Genius and Finneſſe, propoſed the Expedient lately executed here. The Seaſon, the Water, the Company, every thing contributed to anſwer the Views of all who had any Intereſt in keeping the Secret of a Negociation.

But under the Cover of a Negociation for a general Peace, which ſeemed to be the Intention of the Court of *L——n*, the *French* took the Opportunity of a ſeparate Negociation with *Pruſſia* and *Saxony*. The *H——n*, who chiefly tranſacted the *B——ſh* Affairs here, perceiving the Uſe *France* would make of the Opportunity of a Congreſs, gave Notice to his Court, and had Orders to countermine *France*, and, in Conjunction with the *Auſtrian* Miniſter, to treat ſeparately with *Pruſſia* and *Saxony*.

Beſides theſe, there was a direct Negociation between *Spain* and *Sardinia*, and an indirect

direct one between the Emperor and the Court of *Vienna*, in which *France* had a Share, tho' nominally it appeared otherwiſe. There was alſo an Attempt to ſet a Negociation on foot for reconciling the Northern Powers: But *France*, who has her Views in keeping in the Fire between the *Danes* and *Swedes*, till ſhe has ſettled her own Affairs, found Means to thwart the Meaſures of all who had attempted to enlarge the Compaſs of the Negociation.

Now, that all Negociation here ſeems to be at an End, or ſuſpended, and that moſt of the Miniſters are retired to their reſpective Courts, or Places of Reſidence, we may venture to ſpeculate on the various Negociations. But if, in this ſpeculative Reſearch, I don't always hit on the true Pin of Affairs, be ſatisfied at leaſt, that I ſpeak the Senſe of all the beſt Judges here.

The general Negociation, carried on at a *Poliſh* Nobleman's Houſe, went on heavily from the Beginning, but more from the Tenaciouſneſs of the *Auſtrian* Miniſter, than all the others concerned; and he, indeed, of all others, had moſt Reaſon to be tenacious. He inſiſted on an Equivalent for *Siletia*, and an abſolute Renunciation of all Rights to the *Auſtrian* Inheritance on the Part of the Emperor. He inſiſted likewiſe, for ſome Days, to be indemnified for the Expence of the War, to be put in Poſſeſſion of the * *Stado*

* Fortreſſes in the Poſſeſſion of the King of the *Sicilies*.

de Præſidio, on the Coaſt of *Tuſcany*; and that the *Grand Duke* ſhould be immediately elected King of the *Romans*; but gave up theſe three laſt Points: And tho' the Emperor's Renunciation was a Point as ſtrenuouſly oppoſed by the Imperial Miniſter, as it was earneſtly preſſed by the other; yet a Modification being hit upon by Monſieur *F——n*, the firſt was the only Point that was never brought to any tolerable Degree of Adjuſtment. The Modification mentioned above, was, that the Emperor and Queen ſhould ſurceaſe all Purſuits of Claims to each other, during the Term of Twenty-five Years; and that all the principal Powers of *Europe* ſhould guaranty the Performance. This Medium, tho' not thoroughly reliſhed at either Court, was at laſt digeſted at *Frankfort* and *Vienna*. But the Affair of the Equivalent was infinitely more puzzling. The Emperor was incapable of giving any; the other Princes of the Empire would give none; who then, but *France*, was able, or ought to have compenſated the Queen for a forced Ceſſion of one of her faireſt Provinces?

All agreed, and *France* herſelf could not deny, that ſhe was beſt able; but many doubted, and ſhe eſpecially inſiſted, that her being able was a very bad Reaſon for obliging her to compenſate for the Depredations of another. The Current, however, being againſt *France*, and *Lorrain* being in every Mouth as the proper and only Equivalent,

Monſieur

Monſieur *F——n* was driven to all his Shifts. He propoſed the ſecularizing ſome vaſt Spiritualities in the Empire in Favour of the Queen; but finding the *German* Alarm general on the Propoſal, he dropp'd it for another equally diſtaſteful to the *Germans*, who deſired no Increaſe of the *Auſtrian* Power, or Dominion beyond the *Rhine*. This was, that the Arch Dutchy of *Auſtria* ſhould be erected into a tenth Electorate, and that *Hungary* ſhould be incorporated with, and deemed a Circle of the Empire. This laſt Alternative would go down well enough at *Vienna*, but at no other Court in *Germany*; therefore was the Marquis obliged to have Recourſe to other Means, in order to turn the Tide of Prejudice from his Country.

It was eaſily perceivable that the Court of *Vienna* was upheld by that of *L——n*; and that, could this latter be brought to acquieſce to any other Equivalent except *Lorrain*, the Queen of *Hungary* muſt ſubmit. All the Batteries of his Addreſs and Invention the Marquis pointed this Way. The Demolition of the Works about *Dunkirk* was propoſed; and even the intire Deſtruction of that Harbour was inſinuated: But the *H——n*, who had the principal Direction of the Negociation, turned a deaf Ear to all Advantages in favour of *E——d*: Therefore then was Monſieur *F—n* obliged to turn his Thoughts to finding out what might be deemed more agreable to the *H——n* Palate. He propoſed

a ſpecific Guaranty of the *Electorate* and all its Territories and Acquiſitions; and that this Guaranty ſhould be ſtrengthened by that of the Empire; but perceiving that an Addition of Territory was the principal Point in View, he propoſed ſecularizing, or rather annexing the *Biſhoprick* of *Oznabrug* and guarantying the Poſſeſſion of it to *H———r*.

This Bait being greedily ſwallowed, it was not doubted that the Queen muſt be obliged to ſit down contented with a very moderate Equivalent in Money payable at ſeveral very diſtant Payments: But the *Dutch*, *Pruſſian* and *Saxon* Miniſters, alarmed at the Willingneſs with which the *H———n* agreed to ſecularizing *Oznabrug*, tho' he had been the moſt ſtrenuous againſt the firſt Propoſal of a general Secularization in Favour of the Queen, it was thought proper, both by the *Marquis* and *Baron*, to drop that Part of the Scheme for the preſent, intending, however, to aſſume the Deliberation of it as Opportunity offered, either from ſome intervening Accident in the Courſe of the Negociation, or from ſome Advantage or Diſadvantage in the Field. Could a Diſunion, as to that Point, be wrought amongſt the oppoſing Powers; or did Prince *Charles* paſs the *Rhine*, and oblige the *French* to leave *Alſace* open to him and the combined Army; or elſe did he attempt paſſing, and was repulſed with great Loſs; in ſhort, did any ſignal Incident happen, the *French* and *H——n* Miniſters did not

not doubt but thereby there would be Room to work upon the Plan of annexing *Oznaburg* to the Dominions of *H——r.*

One Thing was very diſtinguiſhable on this Occaſion, of which Monſieur *F——n* took all the Advantage poſſible. He ſaw that all the Avenues to the Friendſhip of the Court of *L——n* muſt be by the round-about Way of *H——r*; and that the greateſt Advantages to *E——d* equal not the leaſt to the E——e. This is the Compaſs that Miniſter ſteered by; and this, probably, his Court will ſteer and ſucceed by, in diſſolving the preſent, and preventing any other Alliance againſt *France.*

During a Suſpenſion of the general Negociation, occaſioned, as has been obſerved, by the Oppoſition of the *Dutch*, *Pruſſian* and *Saxon* Miniſters to ſecularizing the See of *Oznabrug*, particular Negociations were carried on more vigorouſly. One had been ſet on Foot by L—d *C——t* with C—t *M——o* at *Frankfort*, in Regard to *Spain* and *England.* My Lord would confine the Negociation ſimply to the Objects of the preſent War between theſe Crowns; but the C—t inſiſted to have a Settlement for *Don Philip* in *Italy* taken into it. My L—d was forced to yield to the Phlegm and Steadineſs of the *Spaniard*; and, upon that Baſis, the Negociation was removed from *Frankfort* hither. By this Means Monſieur *F——n* came to learn, that, if this Negociation ſucceeded, it muſt be at the Expence of a Diſſolution of the preſent Harmony

mony between his Court and that of *Madrid*, therefore he laboured to thwart it; but finding more Difficulty than he imagined, he gave Advice to his Court, which occaſioned a Reſolution of joining a Body of *French* to *Don Philip*'s Army. This put an End to the Panic of the Court of *Vienna*, who muſt have yielded *Parma* and *Placentia* at leaſt, as an Equivalent for a Peace between *England* and *Spain*.

It is plain enough, that if theſe Points could have been gained, *viz.* a Peace with *Spain*, by making *Don Philip* a Sovereign in *Italy*; and one in the Empire, by annexing *Oznabrug* to the E———e, the Grandeur of the Houſe of *Auſtria*, and the *Ballance of Power* would be quite forgot by the moſt puiſſant of the preſent Auxiliaries of that tottering Houſe. This, I think, proves evidently, that the Support of the Houſe of *Auſtria* was but the ſecondary View of the Court of *L——n*, in the expenſive Figure ſhe makes in the *Rhine*. *England*, certainly, has an Intereſt in accommodating her Diſputes with *Spain*; but undoubtedly ſhe can have none in aggrandizing the E——e; and yet if *France* had been able to gain on *Pruſſia* and *Holland* to agree to the *ſecularizing* Scheme, the Queen of *Hungary*, who ſtood *E——d* ſo much of late, muſt be obliged to agree to the Terms of *France*. The Steadineſs of the Opponents has hindered the Perfection of this Scheme hitherto: but as no Difficulty of this Nature is inſurmountable,

ble, we may expect that *France* will, ſooner or later, extricate herſelf, by procuring Advantages for an E——e that had contributed ſcarce any Thing towards the Expence incurred.

The Negociation aforeſaid, between *S—n* and *E——d*, opened Way for an Attempt of one between the Courts of *Madrid* and *Turin*; but it had no other Effect than to quicken the Pace of that of *Vienna*, the ſloweſt in the World, to adjuſt all Difficulties between her and the Court of *Turin*. I won't anſwer, however, that this laſt Court, who underſtands her Intereſts perfectly well, won't liſten with Serioufneſs to *Spain* if ſhe exceeds in her Offers; and that the *French* join the *Spaniards* in *Savoy*.

But the greateſt Pains, at leaſt the moſt general, were taken to gain the Court of *Berlin*. *E——d* would naturally have greateſt Influence there if her K—— had not been a neighbouring E——r: But, notwithſtanding, a Prejudice on this Account, which is not like to be eaſily effaced, ſhe would ſucceed before *France*, if ſhe had acted diſtinctly from *H—r*: But by being led into the Scheme for ſecularizing *Oznabrug*, ſhe increaſed the Jealouſy of *Pruſſia* ſo far as to induce her to liſten to the Overtures of *France* preferable to all others. *France* improved this Advantage and concluded a Treaty with *Pruſſia*, which will oblige the Queen of *Hungary* to moderate her Imperiouſneſs towards the Head of the Empire,

Empire, and even to abandon all Thoughts of making Conqueſts on *France*; or, at leaſt, of detaining ſuch Conqueſts, ſhould ſhe be ſo ſucceſsful as to make any.

This, in my Apprehenſion, was the only Treaty brought to Perfection at this Place, tho' ſome others were ſo advanced, that they may be ſoon concluded: But as any ſignal Succeſs in the Field, on either Side, muſt change the Syſtem of the principal Parties, there is no judging how far Demands may riſe or fall: This, however, we may conclude, that whenever Peace is made, it will be at the Expence of the Queen of *Hungary*, in *Italy* as well as in *Germany*, provided any Acquiſitions of Power or Territory can be gained by *France* to *H——r*. Here centers all the Politics of the Court of *L——n*; here centers alſo the Expence of *E——d*; therefore, if *France* can, by any Scheme, procure Advantage here, the Weight of *E———d* neceſſarily ſubſides on that Side.

Farewel, my noble Friend; if I ſhould be ſo unhappy as to differ with your Notions of public Affairs, let me ſtand excuſed, for following thoſe of all our refined Politicians here: But, however, I may happen to diſagree with you in political Speculations, I ſhall be all my Life long,

Your's, &c.

F I N I S.

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